(b) Statistical information regarding production and clearance of excisable goods and revenue receipts is already being centrally compiled on computer. A pilot experiment for computerising revenue statistics based on treasury challans has recently been undertaken in some of the Central Excise Collectorates. A scheme of further use of computers for comparison of data for purposes of assessment by the field formations is being worked out.

Renovation of public sector steel plants

715. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that public sector steel plants are facing shortage of funds for the renovation and technological upgradation of the plants: and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take to meet the financial demands of the public sector steel plants for the above works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Funds required for the technological upgradation and modernisation of the public sector steel plants will be provided within the VII Plan allocations of the steel sector.

Rise in prices of coal

716. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised coal industry has approached the Central Government for a 25 per cent price hike on coal;

(b) if so, what will be its impact on the industry and on common man; and

(c) what decision Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) Coal India Limited has indicated the anticipated cost of production for 1985-86 taking into account the increase in cost of inputs, additional dearness allowance, bonus etc. No decision has been taken by the Government.

Accumulation of coal at pit-heads due to shortage of railway wagons

717. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to shortage of railway wagons there is huge accumulation of coal at the pit-heads at the collieries owned by the Central Coalfields in Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the off-take is less due to less demand of coal by the industries:

(c) whether it is also a fact that as a result thereof collieries have been forced to go slow in the production of coal; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Govt to meet the situation and ensure that coal wagons are made available in sufficient number to clear the accumulation of coal at the pit-heads?